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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
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9 Hanna Gabrielsson, et al.,

10 Plaintiffs,

11 v.

12 R.N.S. Center Limited Partnership, et al.,

13 Defendants.
14

No. CV-24-02585-PHX-MTL

ORDER

15 This matter is before the Court *sua sponte*. For the reasons set forth below, the Court
16 will deny Plaintiffs' Motion (Doc. 7) and dismiss the First Amended Complaint (Doc. 6)
17 without prejudice.

18 **I.**

19 Upon reviewing Plaintiffs' Complaint (Doc. 6), the Court construes the ultimate
20 relief sought as a stay of ongoing state court litigation between Plaintiffs and Defendants.¹
21 In their Complaint, Plaintiffs seek "a declaratory judgment that all judgments entered
22 against [Plaintiffs] by RICO Def. McCoy from Superior court of Maricopa County are
23 unenforceable and non-recognizable." (Doc. 6 ¶ 1988.) Plaintiffs also request "a
24 preliminary and permanent injunction that enjoins Defendants . . . from commencing,
25 prosecuting, or advancing in any way directly or indirectly any attempt to recognize or

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27 ¹ While Plaintiffs' Complaint also seeks monetary damages for their Racketeering
28 Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ("RICO") Act and common law claims (Doc. 6
¶ 1995), the Court presumes this request is duplicative of the relief sought in state court
given that the parties are largely the same in both proceedings. This Court, however, is not
the appropriate forum for Plaintiffs to appeal the judgments rendered in state court.

1 enforce any Judgment in any court, tribunal, or administrative agency in any
2 jurisdiction” (*Id.* ¶ 1995(4).)

3 The requested relief is barred by *Younger v. Harris*, 401 U.S. 37, 53 (1971) and the
4 Anti-Injunction Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2283. “*Younger v. Harris*[], and its progeny espouse a
5 strong federal policy against federal-court interference with pending state judicial
6 proceedings absent extraordinary circumstances.” *Middlesex Cty. Ethics Comm. v. Garden*
7 *State Bar Ass’n*, 457 U.S. 423, 431 (1982). A court will abstain pursuant to *Younger* if:
8 “(1) the state proceedings are ongoing; (2) the proceedings implicate important state
9 interests; and (3) the state proceedings provide an adequate opportunity to raise federal
10 questions.” *Fresh Int’l Corp. v. Agric. Lab. Rels. Bd.*, 805 F.2d 1353, 1357–58 (9th Cir.
11 1986) (citing *Middlesex Cty. Ethics Comm.*, 457 U.S. at 432).

12 Upon consideration of these factors, the Court finds that abstention is warranted.
13 First, there are clearly state judicial proceedings pending in the Arizona Superior Court
14 between Plaintiffs and Defendants as detailed in the Complaint. Second, the state
15 proceedings implicate important state interests—namely, adjudicating the proceedings and
16 enforcing the judgments rendered by the state courts of Arizona. See *Middlesex Cty. Ethics*
17 *Comm.*, 457 U.S. at 432 (“Proceedings necessary for the vindication of important state
18 policies or for the functioning of the state judicial system also evidence the state’s
19 substantial interest in the litigation.”). Lastly, federal courts are not the appropriate forum
20 for appealing state court decisions. See *Rooker v. Fid. Tr. Co.*, 263 U.S. 413, 415–16
21 (1923). Plaintiffs have an adequate opportunity to challenge any state court judgment—
22 which is the essence of their federal RICO claim—through direct appeal to the state
23 appellate courts.

24 Plaintiffs’ request for injunctive relief is also barred by the Anti-Injunction Act,
25 which prohibits federal courts from “grant[ing] an injunction to stay proceedings in a State
26 court except as expressly authorized by Act of Congress, or where necessary in aid of its
27 jurisdiction, or to protect or effectuate its [own] judgments.” 28 U.S.C. § 2283. This
28 mandate “extends not only to injunctions affecting pending proceedings, but also to

1 injunctions against the execution or enforcement of state judgments.” *Henrichs v. Valley*
 2 *View Dev.*, 474 F.3d 609, 616 (9th Cir. 2007). Put simply, “[a]n injunction may not be used
 3 to evade the dictates of the Act if the injunction effectively blocks a state court judgment.”
 4 *Id.* Therefore, because Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief that would affect the state court
 5 proceedings before Judge McCoy or otherwise preclude the execution or enforcement of
 6 his judgments, § 2283 precludes such relief.

7 II.

8 Dismissal is also warranted because Plaintiffs’ Complaint does not comply with
 9 Rule 8 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Under Rule 8, a complaint must contain “a
 10 short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed.
 11 R. Civ. P. 8(a). “Each allegation must be simple, concise, and direct.” *Id.*(d)(1). A
 12 complaint having the factual elements of a cause of action present but scattered throughout
 13 the complaint and not organized into a “short and plain statement of the claim” may be
 14 dismissed for failure to satisfy Rule 8(a). *Sparling v. Hoffman Constr. Co.*, 864 F.2d 635,
 15 640 (9th Cir. 1988).

16 At over 1,995 paragraphs, spanning 321 pages, Plaintiffs’ Complaint fails to set out
 17 a “short and plain statement” of their claims. Moreover, the Court finds Plaintiffs’ claims
 18 are not stated clearly enough to enable the nineteen (19) named Defendants to frame a
 19 responsive pleading.

20 III.

21 Plaintiffs’ Complaint is effectively a collateral appeal of pending state court
 22 litigation. Federal legislation, judicial precedent, and settled principles of federalism and
 23 comity prohibit this Court from interfering. Therefore, dismissal without prejudice is
 24 warranted.²

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27 ² A dismissal “without prejudice” means Plaintiffs are permitted to refile their action in
 28 this court. *Semtek Int’l Inc. v. Lockheed Martin Corp.*, 531 U.S. 497, 502 (U.S. 2001) (“The
 primary meaning of ‘dismissal without prejudice’ . . . is dismissal without barring the
 [plaintiff] from returning later, to the same court, with the same underlying claim.”).

1 Accordingly,

2 **IT IS ORDERED** that Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint (Doc. 6) is dismissed
3 without prejudice.

4 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the pending Motion to File Two DVDs (Doc. 7)
5 and Plaintiffs' Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis³ (Doc. 2) are denied as moot.

6 **IT IS FINALLY ORDERED** directing the Clerk of Court to enter a judgment of
7 dismissal without prejudice and close the case.

8 Dated this 1st day of November, 2024.

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11 Michael T. Liburdi
12 United States District Judge
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28 ³ Because Plaintiffs filed a First Amended Complaint and paid the filing fee (Doc. 5), the pending application is now moot.